

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01137 161353Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 CA-01 EB-08 COME-00
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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R 161439Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 642

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, MA
SUBJ: EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LITIGATION CASE

REF: A) STATE 14774;B) ANT 0669; C) ANT 1011

1.I DISCUSSED THIS CASE WITH HAROLD PLUMACHER, HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL. KINGSLEY AND WILLIAMS HAVE BEEN IN PRISON SINCE SEPTEMBER 19, 1977. THEY ARE NOW AT THE CENTRAL PRISON AT ANTANANARIVO, AND THEIR CASE WAS INVESTIGATED FROM JUNE 6 TO JUNE 8. PLUMACHER BELIEVES THE TWO MEN WILL PROBABLY BE CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE BASED ON CLANDESTINE COMMUNICATIONS, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAD WITH PARTIES ABROAD, USING RADIO OF CONFISCATED TAIWANESE CARGO SHIP ORIENT LONDON (REF B). PLUMACHER COULD NOT JUDGE THEIR PROSPECTS FOR RELEASE. HE THOUGHT CHANCES MIGHT BE BETTER FOR KINGSLEY WHO GENUINELY WANTS TO REMAIN AND WORK IN MADAGASCAR AS A SALVAGE EXPERT, WHOSE TECHNICAL ABILITIES ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE LARGE MALAGASY SHIPYARD AT DIEGO SUAREZ, AND WHO IS POPULAR THERE. WILLIAMS IS A MORE DIFFICULT CASE AS HE HAD MADE HIMSELF VERY UNPOPULAR HERE AND THE BEST PLUMACHER WOULD HOPE FOR WAS HIS EVENTUAL EXPULSION. HOWEVER, NEITHER RELEASE NOR EXPULSION IS POSSIBLE UNTIL A TRIAL IS HELD, PROBABLY IN FRONT OF A MILITARY COURT IN VIEW OF THE ESPIONAGE CHARGE. GIVEN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" FEELINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY FOSTERED BY GOVERNMENT SINCE
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DISORDERS OF JUNE 29-30 (REF C), CHANCES FOR A FAVORABLE VERDICT BY A MILITARY COURT ARE LESS THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

2. REGARDING DEPOSITION OR STATEMENT,I HAVE AGREED TO REQUEST IT IN WRITING FROM PLUMACHER. LATTER, WHO DOES NOT HAVE CONSULAR ACCESS YET, WILL TURN IT OVER TO LOCAL LAWYER DEFENDING TWO MEN.

LAWYER WILL, IN TURN, REQUEST KINGSLEY AND/OR WILLIAMS TO MAKE A
WRITTEN

STATEMENT AND PLUMACHER WILL BE ABLE TO OFFICIALLY WITNESS THEIR
SIGNATURES WHICH HE HAS ON FILE. PLUMACHER AND I AGREE THAT THIS WAS
ABOUT THE BEST WE COULD DO AT THIS TIME IN THIS CASE AND I HOPE
MCKENNA AND FITTING WILL FIND IT SATISFACTORY.
BARRETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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